

Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

May 2002, Vol. 9 Number 8

A photograph of three women smiling. The woman on the left has short, reddish-brown hair. The woman in the center wears glasses and a blue jacket. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a black jacket.

My
Name
Is Marla

Pg's 8 & 9

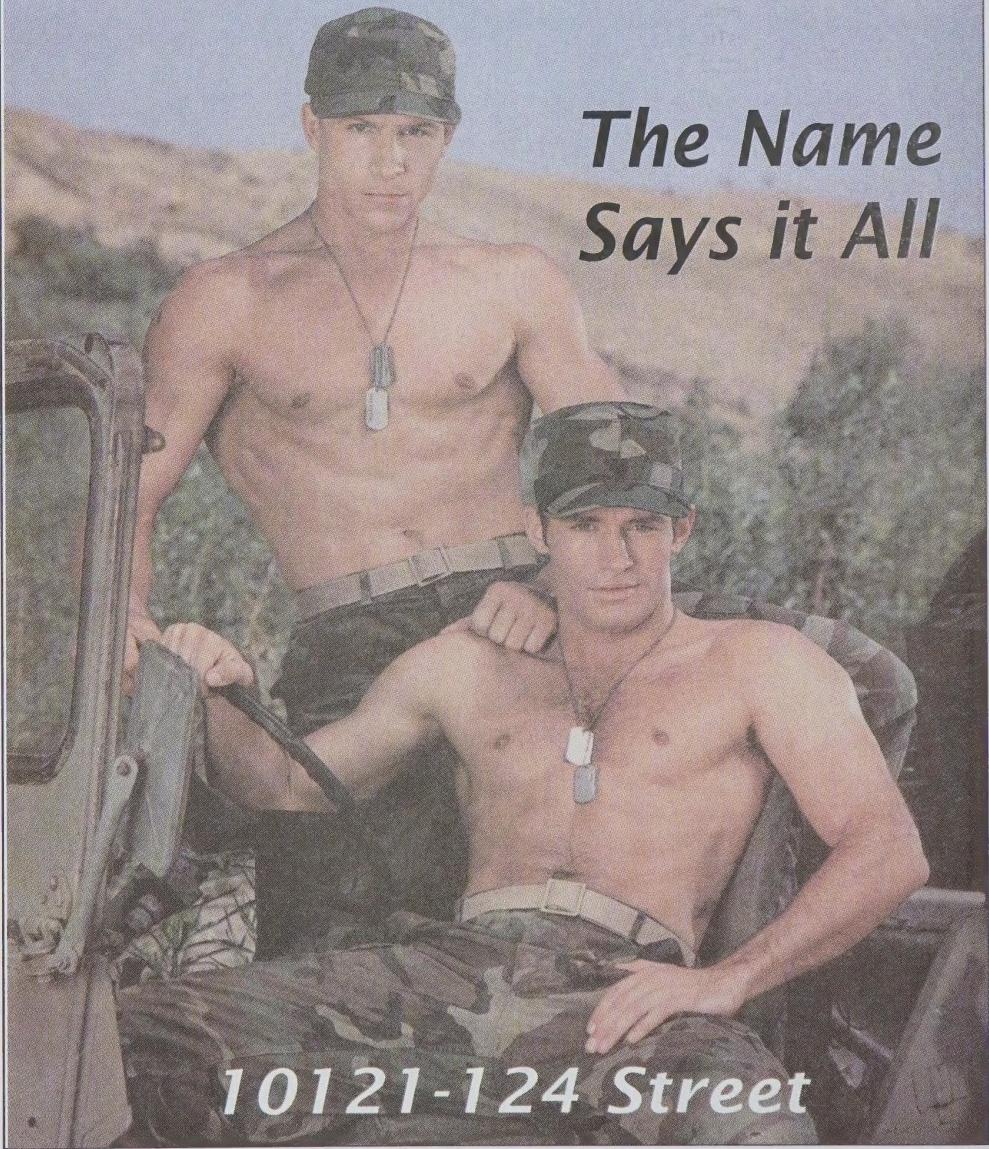
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Identity
Pg's 4, 16, 40

Health
Pg's 12, 32, 36

Pride Video

*The Name
Says it All*



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Your Magazine of Choice

Vol. 9 Number 8

May 2002

10121-124 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 1P5

www.times10.org

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ELIZABETH MASSIAH, M.S.W., R.S.W.
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Times .10 Magazine
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Times .10 Publications

Society in Alberta

May, 2002

Vol. 9 # 8

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Pierre Elliott Trudeau Was A Busy Chap

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW and Gordon Portman, editor and playwright

Think about where you were twenty years ago. Were you born? Married to a heterosexual person? Hanging out in lesbian dances, drooling over the women but not sure what to do when one actually spoke to you other than blush and stutter? Or, if you're a gay man, were you shoplifting Playgirl magazines from your local drugstore because you were too scared of being called "faggot" to actually pay for them?

Twenty years ago, a man named Pierre Elliott Trudeau was a busy chap. He was signing the Charter of Rights and Freedoms into life here in Canada, repatriating the Constitution ... and making a difference for us lesbian and gay folks here in Canada.

It all began with his statement that "the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation..." Many years later, we have inclusion in the law, thanks to Pierre and his vision. Believe it: a politician who actually made a difference - in Pierre's case, a direct difference in the lives of you and me. The next time you find yourself thinking that you don't care about politics, that politicians don't matter, don't make a difference and that you can't be bothered to vote, remember the Charter. Us old fogies remember being afraid, very afraid of not having housing, not having a job. I remember my boss telling me that "we have had other 'people like you' here,

and as long as they did not talk about themselves it was fine...". I remember politicians here in Alberta telling me to my face that "discrimination is good for you, it makes you strong". When was the last time you felt you had no choice but to put up with attitudes like that? Even if it was yesterday, thanks to Pierre Trudeau, you don't. Not any more.

Remember only a few years ago when Delwin got us to the Supreme Court and, as a result, even Alberta had to toe the Charter line? Remember how, despite the churches preaching from the pulpits about how frightful it would be if we were included, we all seem to be here in booming old Alberta? That's thanks to Pierre and the Charter.

And as you remember, pay close attention to what the Alliance folks say about "boyfriends" in the House of Commons. Pay close attention to the kid in Ontario taking on the Catholic Church so he and his partner can go to his grad together. Pay close attention to what happens in the United Church, now they've been told to keep in mind the rights of gays and lesbians when it comes to ordination. It's the Charter that awakened journalists and politicians to an awareness of what's appropriate and what isn't. It'll be the Charter that puts the Catholic Church in its place and a boy can go to his prom with his date of choice. It'll be the Charter that challenges the church and makes them sit up and pay attention.

My world, your world, has lots more safety and more possibilities for safety in it because of Trudeau and his vision, so thanks Pierre, here's to you! And here's to all those who keep on remembering and paying attention....

Opinions in this column are those of the authors only. Any client related information is disguised to ensure confidentiality. The comments in this column are general in nature and not intended to provide professional advice to any particular situation, or to replace consultation with a registered professional psychotherapist.

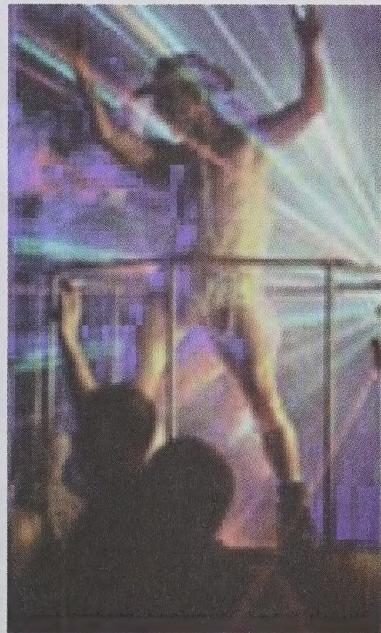


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Regardless Of The Sex

Being gay in Edmonton is something to be proud of. Edmonton has a strong, diverse, and vibrant gay community, which is active in many forms of charitable endeavors. That is one of the main reasons that the ISCWR is in the process of changing what Mr. And Mz. Gay Edmonton are all about.

Previously, for the past 15 years, Mr. and Mz. Gay Edmonton, along with the occasional Ms., have been court titles awarded in the spring of each year. While they came with far less responsibility than Emperor/Empress or Prince/Princess, nonetheless they were court titles. The Gay Edmontons were expected to organize shows, plan fundraisers, and support the events planned by others in the court and the community.

Even that set Edmonton apart from other courts. In many cities, the Gays are an organization unto themselves, with their own status, their own board, and their own bylaws. They still work closely with the courts of their cities, and they are still given prominent recognition at court events, but they are independent. Edmonton's Gays have always had a close relationship with the Gays of other cities, especially Calgary and Vancouver.

This is all changing, come this June. During Pride Week, the
6

ISCSR is holding their Gay Edmonton Pageant, with a big twist. While the court will still manage the event, the title will be something open to the city. Mr. and Mz. Gay Edmonton will be representative of all of Edmonton's gay community. Every gay business, group, or organization will be invited to submit a candidate for either/both position(s). It is the hope of the court that the organizations will have internal contests to elect their candidate(s), building up interest and excitement for the June event.

This is very much along the lines of Mr. and Mz. Edmonton Leather. It is a group event that transcends groups, a city event that is recognized and attended and appreciated by other cities, a gay event that celebrates diversity and revels in our own sense of fun. The court has opted to do this to give the city one more event to bring it together in a great party for a good cause.

The title-holders, when elected, won't have placed on them the same obligations as previous Gay Edmontonians. Because the court manages the title, they winners will still be expected to attend Coronation Festival along with previous title-holders. They will of course always be welcome to participate in court shows, and will be encouraged to attend other city events such as the Edmonton Leather contests, the Icebreaker tournament, the Curtain Rises, the No-Name Fundraiser, and other annual events of similar nature.



And, of course, they are still strongly encouraged to attend the Gay pageants of other cities.

Since this is the first year to have all this change, it's hard to say where this title could be a year from now. Very likely, it will be wherever this year's winners want to take it. These winners don't necessarily have to be drag queens. Regardless of the sex of the contestant, anyone can run for either position, keeping in mind that running for Mr. Gay means running as a male (boys or girls dressed like boys) and running for Mz. Gay means running as a female (girls or boys dressed like girls). Whether they choose to do "standard" numbers, or juggle, do stand-up, tap-dance, whatever, is up to them. It's wide open with few rules, and that by itself should encourage the hesitant to get involved.

The court is going out of its way to make this event a success, and not only that, but they also want it to be in sync with the other events of our Pride Festival, as far as themes and dates go. However, we still have to take into account the fact that we have this year's Gay Edmontonians, Ferrah Moan, Morgan, and Panther, to honor with a more-traditional court step-down. We're the ISCWR though, and we know how to make an event great.

So come out one and all, to a court meeting, to a pride committee meeting, come out, have a say, have a blast. Let's make sure that everyone knows that being gay in Edmonton is grrrrr-eat.

Rob Bigonion
Emperor XXVI

Our First Ms. Edmonton Leather Competition



More Pictures at
www.times10.org Archives

My name is Marla Taylor

On April 6th, at Secrets Bar and Grill, I won the first ever title of Ms. Edmonton Leather. Ms Leather events are held throughout North America and the world. For the first time ever, it was also held in Edmonton. I write this article now with great pleasure and some apprehension. Pleasure because of the opportunity this title gives me to do something for our communities and apprehension because I've never done anything like this before.

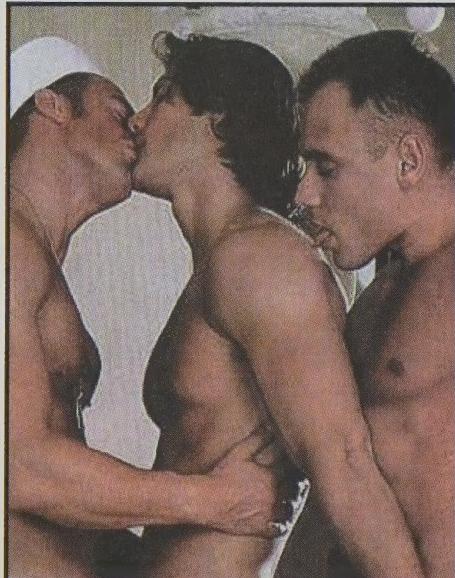
Holding the title of Ms Edmonton Leather is an enormous responsibility that I take very seriously. Let me try to explain to you what this title means to me. I have been interested in the S/M lifestyle for more than 20 years and actively involved for roughly 5 years. It took a long time to "come out" because of personal reasons that I won't go into now. Within this S/M, bdsm or alternative lifestyle, the one thing I admired more than anything else was the code or credo of the leather men lifestyle. That is to be yourself with honour and respect. Both for yourself and others. You have read many times in this article about sane, safe and consensual, but to me without



the honour and respect, you can't have the others.

I haven't been alone with these thoughts. Years ago, women across the United States decided they, too, wanted to express their desires and thoughts about the Leather lifestyle. So, like the Mr. International Leather and Drummer contests across the continent, the Ms. International Leather contests began.

For many years the men in our community have been represented by Northern Chaps. They have done a wonderful job bringing forward the positive side of S/M. It is my goal to hopefully allow a conduit for women in our community to come forward and follow the same credo. It is with



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honour that I represent the women of this community.

Our own event began many months ago when Liz Gates, the owner of Secrets Bar and Grill, was presented with the idea of hosting such an event. Ms Edmonton Leather kicked off Friday evening April 5th with a "meet and greet". It was an opportunity for the public to meet the contestants. They consisted of myself, Diva Dega and Usha. We were being judged on several criteria

including appearance and attitude. It was a pleasure to see the many new and old faces. Seldom have I had the pleasure of seeing such a friendly crowd. The next day, one of the most important parts of the contest was the interview. I can't remember ever having been so nervous. I just hope I can live up to the expectations. On Saturday night, the fantasy part of the contest began. Secrets was packed, and again the crowd was great with many, many new faces. This tells me that there are a lot of people who are interested in our lifestyle. The entire event was hosted by Neon who did a fabulous job. Diva

Dega started the fantasies with a great show and was followed by a very special performance by Usha. By luck of draw, I followed up with my own version of S/M. Special performances by Ida, Twiggy and yes, even Liz, finished the night. Liz looked great in those leather shorts.



An event such as this could not have been successful without the help and support of a lot of people. It gave me great pleasure to see the community come together in their support. The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose sponsored the Sunday Survivor's Brunch. Those guys put on a fantastic spread. Thanks so much. Special thanks to Lady Eleonore and Mr. Wallace, my partners and Masters, for their love, sacrifice,

consent and encouragement through all the months since this first began. Thanks also to the committee members: Aaron's mollis, Lady Leather, Sonya, moonfrye and Liz who believed that women should be represented by women. Thanks to "Dyna's sweat shop" made up of Mr. Vera, Lydie, mollis, Lady Eleonore and, of course, Dyna for making, I'm convinced, the world's largest leather pride flag. You'll be seeing more of that as the months roll on. Thank you to the judges: Master



Barry of 3SM in Calgary, Ms. Devine, the current reigning Ms. Calgary Leather, Lady Leather, Marsha Black, Sue and Dennis Cambly, some of the finest people I have ever met; people who give so much and ask for nothing. They deserve our support. A very special thanks to a very close and personal friend, Master Richardson

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who made it possible for me to compete.

During the brunch somebody asked me if winning this title had sunk in yet. It is only now beginning to. One of my goals is to help others that are interested in the leather lifestyle to be able to come forward. I hope I'll be able to do this. I fully intend to give it my best shot. This year, the International Ms. Leather takes place in Omaha, Nebraska on July 26-28. Check out the web site at IMsL.org for more information. Although the guidelines of this year's Edmonton contest were drafted to allow the winner to compete at the international level, I feel it more important to build a solid foundation and set a precedent at home. Hopefully this will allow more women to come forward with hopes of competing internationally. I look forward to seeing you all in the weeks ahead.

Yours in leather,
Marla



The Flip Flop Affair

By Laurie Blakeman
MLA

It's time for another government flip flop and this one I will approve. The provincial government decided that with its recent budget it needed to make cuts somewhere so it eliminated the Community Lottery Boards. The Klein government maintains that these boards are simply not a priority, suggesting that the money should go toward health and education. Instead, 8-thousand community and not-for-profit groups are being cut off while the government pays down its debt — debt that it was responsible for creating in the first place. An increasing percentage of the province's gambling revenues are being used to pay down the debt, while financial support for charities is shrinking.

The percentage of gambling revenues budgeted to fund the government's aggressive debt re-payment program has skyrocketed. The revenues went from just under three per cent in 1999/00 to more than 26 per cent in 2002/03. Meanwhile, funding for charities (including community lottery boards) and not-for profit groups has dropped from 14 per cent of the total gambling revenues in 1999/00 to six per cent in 2002-03. In short, the government is acting like a reverse Robin Hood, taking money from charities to pay for government overspending.

When I asked the premier about the cancellation of the lottery boards programs, he insisted that the Community Facility Enhancement Program would take over where the Community Lottery Boards left off, but I seriously doubt that. First, the criteria for CFEP will have to change to meet the needs of charities and not-for-profit organizations. A sports team, which has no facility, will not be able to apply to CFEP for funding. Where will it go? As well, CFEP is already oversubscribed. Klein has promised that CFEP will be revisited but that there has been no guarantee of more money and I fear that community groups are going to be hung out to dry as well because the CLBs were comprised of volunteers (more free

labour from the community!) The admin costs were less than 2%, hard to match that anywhere else! I know that people value locally based decision-making and our 88 Community Lottery Boards were a good example of that. With Community Lottery Boards, towns like Irma could direct the funding needs of their organizations. With any other admin set-up, that type of local autonomy will be lost.

I am making this promise. If the Premier decides to do a flip flop for a third time on this budget and reinstate funding for Community Lottery Boards, I vow I will

not tease him about this decision. It's the one time I would support the government actually going back on its word.

If you would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live.

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Commentary

By Dennis Cambly
Managing Editor



A New Day will Dawn

Random thoughts are flowing through my mind as we move closer to Pride Week here in the Capital City. So many changes have been made and so many people are working countless hours to make this the one you can be very proud of in the future. It is a new beginning with a lot of fresh faces and some faces that are always busy building and creating in our community. It is with those intentions that things have developed as the months have passed. You can look forward to many events with a few very special ones, including a Parade down Jasper Avenue again. The businesses that are so visible to you every day of the year are backing it with strong financial support. At the time of the writing of this article, about 99% of the funds required have come from the

private sector. These are people that own and operate business with you in mind. Not every city finds such support possible. Many of them are the same ones that make your fundraisers possible, make funds available for special events, and make facilities available for groups and organizations around our community. They employ people in our community and thus give the opportunity to people here in the Capital City. Your support throughout the year by patronizing them makes all of these things possible. Believe it or not, without the absolute support of the private sector, there would be no foundation for the community to stand on.

In the private sector, or private entrepreneurs, real money flows through the system making the economy strong. Governments only create "funny money" that comes from the private sector and is then lost in the giant black hole of taxation and jobs that have no productivity. The government creates no money so we must not let them interfere with our lives by taking control. We in Alberta are witness to such corruption in government that we ought to know better.

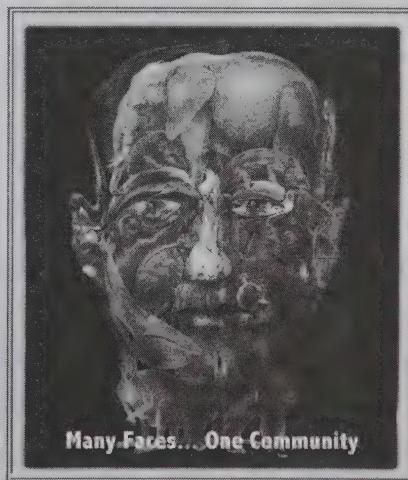
If you are looking for information, you can go to the Pride Week Website at www.prideedmonton.org and see what is coming up. There is new information being placed on the Website all the

time, so check back on a regular basis. You can also look forward to seeing a full program printed in Vue Weekly the week before Pride Week complete with all the information you will require. There will be more information in the June issue of Times 10 Magazine along with weekly updates in Vue during May.

When you make remarks from the dark side about any business that is supportive of you, you are not seeing the entire picture. It costs a gay or lesbian businessperson more to operate than any other business because every one of us carries products that are special to our

community. The cost of doing business has risen a lot due to the City of Edmonton gouging smaller businesses with lots of additional taxes, along with our suppliers passing on increases. (i.e.: Bill Smith and Michael Phair need to spend millions of dollars to redo Sir Winston Churchill Park again so they dip into the business persons bank accounts for such a bullshit project.)

So try not to be to far away from Pride Week this year and join in the fun. People have been working as volunteers since the fall of 2001 to make it your week. This happens once a year, so make your own memory this year.



Be a Part of the World
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Empowering People Living with HIV/ AIDS

The second annual face-to-face meeting of the current Board of Directors of The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS – North America (GNP+NA)

took place in Gatineau (Hull), Québec from April 5th-7th, 2002. This meeting built on the success of the initial face-to-face held in Toronto in early 2000.

At that time, utilizing limited financial support from the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, a worldwide organization of HIV+ people of which GNP+NA is one of six regional affiliates, the Board of Directors of GNP+NA began a process that has led to the development of an organizational infrastructure and capacity. The purpose of this meeting was to set in motion a

probable work-plan for 2002-2003.

During the course of the meeting, an open reception and information session entitled *Global Issues for Action* was held. Members of the broader HIV-community were invited to provide valuable input and insights into the development of GNP+NA's strategic planning for the coming year.

GNP+NA is in the process of building its membership. All too often, the valuable perspective stemming from the life experience of people living with HIV/AIDS

(PLWHA) is not fully reflected in policy development and decision-making. During this meeting, it was decided that the overriding focus of GNP+NA's work will be the greater and more meaningful inclusion of people living with HIV/AIDS in all aspects of life (GIPA Principle).

Immigration and travel restrictions on visitors entering the US are an ongoing concern and some of the organization's efforts will be aimed at influencing public policy to positively affect change. Other key issues discussed were: vaccines, microbicides, fund-raising and communications strategies and budget.

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A cartoon illustration shows two dogs, one large and fluffy, the other smaller and darker, standing behind a wooden fence in a grassy field. In the foreground, a person's legs and feet are visible, suggesting they are sitting or lying down.

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GNP+NA operates a unique bilateral organization; providing North American PLWHA with opportunities to network and organize across national borders and to become part of a global movement of PLWHA.

GNP+NA educates, shares information and disseminates best practices to empower its constituency. This process then allows PLWHA to advocate from a position of increased awareness, effectively informing and supporting global public policy that impacts our lives. Through its activities, GNP+NA intends to build

greater understanding of issues among people living with HIV/AIDS in North America. Current efforts will work to increase funding, enhance treatment, and advance public policy initiatives by providing information and tools for effective mobilization.

Governed by a ten-member Board of Directors (5 each from Canada and the United States), GNP+NA also benefits from administrative support provided by a Secretariat housed at the National Association of People With AIDS - USA (NAPWA-USA). There is no such similar organization (by PLWHA for PLWHA) in

Canada.

GNP+NA's mission is "to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS, through creating and sustaining an active North American network of PLWHA working regionally to address the global pandemic. GNP+NA endorses the vision of GNP+ to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS by lobbying (advocating), linking and sharing." GNP+NA is committed to making a difference in three broad areas of global focus to people living with HIV/AIDS:

- Expand access to care and treatment
- End stigma and discrimination
- Support the greater and more meaningful involvement of HIV+ people in the global response to the epidemic

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Being Out Rocks

Celebrating openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender musicians is the theme for this year's National Coming Out Project, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation announced. Melissa Etheridge, Ani DiFranco, the Indigo Girls, k.d. Lang, Michael Stipe and RuPaul are among the 19 openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender musicians who have lent their names to a poster heralding the 2002 theme. The poster's tagline is, "You may feel like just a face in the crowd but coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender makes you a star!" "Coming out to the world was one

of the most freeing events in my life, and I'm proud to support HRC's National Coming Out Project and National Coming Out Day," said Grammy award-winning artist Melissa Etheridge. "I hope that efforts such as this one will help teen-agers feel that they can be themselves and not worry that their sexual orientation may be made an obstacle to their success."

Other artists who signed their names to HRC's "Being Out Rocks" poster are: The Butchies, Catie Curtis, Lea Delaria, Jade Esteban Estrada, Janis Ian, Lisa Koch, Bob Mould, Chuck Panozzo, Pet Shop Boys, SONiA, Suede, Rufus Wainwright and Cris Williamson. The poster, which will be distributed nationwide, can be downloaded by visiting the National Coming Out Project on HRC's website at www.hrc.org/ncop. National Coming Out Day is celebrated every Oct. 11, marking the anniversary of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality. Each year since,

thousands of GLBT people and allies have celebrated National Coming Out Day in schools, churches and businesses nationwide through workshops, speak-outs, rallies and other events aimed at showing the public that GLBT people are everywhere. HRC's National Coming Out Project supports these events by providing event ideas, materials and themes. "We have long recognized the power of public figures to inspire and influence the general public," said Candace Gingrich, HRC's National Coming Out Project manager. "This year, we are especially excited by the great number of respected artists who have lent their names to our efforts. All of them are tremendous role models for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans, showing that you can live an out, open and successful life." Among the other celebrities who have supported HRC's National Coming Out Project in the past are: Olympic champion diver Greg Louganis and actors

Mitchell Anderson, Amanda Bearse and Dan Butler. Betty DeGeneres, author and mother of comedian Ellen DeGeneres, became the first straight spokesperson in 1997. Gingrich became a spokesperson in 1995, shortly after her brother Newt Gingrich became speaker of the House.

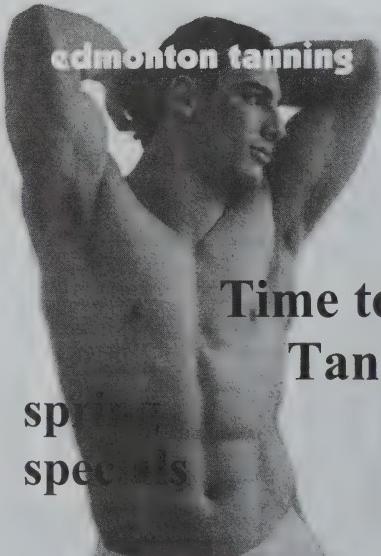
The National Coming Out Project is operated by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the Human Rights Campaign. For more information on National Coming Out Day, call 1-800-866-NCOP or visit www.hrc.org/ncop. The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian and gay political organization with members throughout the country. HRC effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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Show Your Face At Pride Week 2002!

Express your FREEDOM, your RIGHTS, your CREATIVITY, and your sense of COMMUNITY and participate in Pride Week 2002 from Friday, June 14th to Sunday, June 23rd! The theme this year is "Many faces - One Community". We all know it takes many different people to make a community, and our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community is valuable and integral to a vibrant and diverse society.

Participating in Pride Week 2002 is a great opportunity for you to show your creativity, your enthusiasm and your pride!

There are lots of ways to participate and show your face this year. Find something that suits you and get out. You can watch the parade, organize a float, watch the pride awards, move your body at the pride dance, attend the many community events or volunteer!

The parade starts at 111 Street and Jasper Avenue and turns down 119 Street to end at the Oliver Arena located at 10335 - 119 Street.

Are you part of a community group or business? Then it is time to start thinking about organizing an entry for the

parade. Here are some friendly tips on how to start planning your parade contingent:

At your next community group or business meeting, brainstorm for costumes and music, showing the many faces (facets) of your organization.

Start getting quotes now on banners, vehicles or costume rentals, or costumes to borrow (check out local theatres and their wardrobes).

Do you know someone with access to a convertible, antique or collector car? Contact like-minded groups and ask if they would like to plan and merge your two contingents or just share costs.

Plan a FUN-RAISER (a book sale, a strip-a-thon, a bake sale or creative event).

Tell us about your event! Is your community group planning an event for Pride

Week 2002? It's time to tell the Pride Committee's community relations and scheduling sub-committee. Even if your organization doesn't have all the details finalized, we want to add your event to the calendar already published on the web site.

Tell us about your event by visiting the Pride Edmonton web site at www.prideedmonton.org, by email at pride@prideedmonton.org or by phoning Roz at 479-4636.

Find out more!

Visit the Pride Week 2002 website at www.prideedmonton.org or attend the Pride Committee meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2002 starting at 7 p.m. at GLCCE (#45, 9916 - 106 St.).

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Bush Administration Indicts Anti-Gay Killer

Ashcroft Denounces Anti-Gay Violence, Pledges All-Out Assault on "Poisonous Mixture of Hatred and Violence"; Killer Could Face Death Penalty

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft today announced a federal indictment of capital murder against Darrell David Rice, who is accused of murdering Julianne Marie Williams, 24, and Lollie Winans, 26, in the Shenandoah National Park in

1996. The indictment alleges that Rice "intentionally selected his victims because of his hatred of women and homosexuals."

"The volatile, poisonous nature of hatred and violence will not go unchallenged in the American system of justice," Ashcroft said, adding that the indictment should make clear "our commitment to seek every prosecutorial advantage... to secure justice for victims like Julianne Marie Williams and Lollie Winans."

According to court documents, Rice stated that "he hates gays" and that the victims "deserved to die because they were lesbian." As the indictments are for capital murders, Rice faces a possible death sentence, Ashcroft affirmed.

The Bush Administration is pursuing the indictment under the federal Hate Crimes Sentencing

Enhancement Act, passed by Congress in 1993. The federal government has jurisdiction to prosecute bias-related crimes of violence committed on federal lands such as the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, a federal park. The 1993 law makes clear that crimes committed by bias against gays are covered. The Bush Administration's action is the first federal prosecution of an anti-gay murder under the 1993 law.

"This is another example of the Bush Administration's commitment to ensuring that all Americans are treated fairly under the law, including gay Americans," said Rich Tafel, executive director

of Log Cabin Republicans. "It is also another example of the Attorney General following through on what he said he would do as the nation's top law enforcer. He has been a friend of our organization since the day he took office, and we are proud to have continued to work with him and the Administration."

A full transcript of the Attorney General's announcement of the indictment of Darrell David Rice is available at <http://www.lcr.org>

(Log Cabin Republicans is the largest gay and lesbian Republican organization in the United States, with state and local chapters nationwide, a full-time national office and a federal political action committee.)



Amateur strip Mondays

\$175.00

In prizes

JUGS \$8.50

Buddy's
Nite Club
11725B Jasper Avenue

Recognized Community Builders

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 462-8896.

Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail showrish@compusmart.ab.ca.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

Arctic FrontRunners

We are a group of gay and lesbian runners that meets on Sunday mornings for a run on the river valley trail system. We are a recreational group and runners of all speeds are welcome. The length of our runs varies from about 7 to 10 km. We yak, laugh, and socialize during the runs and often go for brunch together.

afterward. During the spring, summer, and fall, we meet beneath the electronic sign at 87 Ave and 114 St on the University campus at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Bill at 436-7892.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet.

The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month 9:00 p. m. - 11:00 p.m. at Buddys Night Club. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Heather at 987-4974. email address jonrach@msn.com

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-

4218

Classics

A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact, Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca.

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or by e-mail at edmontontp@times10.org,

or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA):

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca, on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/>, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. 1) C-Recreation - contact Rick at 474-6785; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Rick at 474-6785; 3) B-Intermediate - contact Darcy at 425-7316; Email: volleyball@queerseek.com Website: FTB Volleyball

[http://www.queerseek.com/
freetobe/](http://www.queerseek.com/freetobe/)

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Cafe on Whyte at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. E-mail Jared at rainbowboy2000@hotmail.com. Or call Carl after 6 P.M. at 908-3559

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC)

GMOC is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on GMOC workshops and other activities, please call (780) 488-0564

HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by

HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at mail@hivedmonton.com. Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club, Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: wildrosecourt@yahoo.com. Visit our Website is at: Wild Rose Court <http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/>

ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at

icare@oanet.com

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational Christian church. Providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at lambdachurch@shaw.ca

Latrias Society

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information, contact latrissociety@hotmail.com or John at 434-5717.

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: livepos@telusplanet.net.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people.

Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: lylemillang@powersurfr.com

Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters GLBT club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm. 2. E-mail: makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com 3. Phone: Warren 780-718-7598. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

NLA Edmonton

The National Leather Association is the largest and most active pansexual organization in the world. It serves the Leather, SM, Fetish communities. We are an all inclusive organization made up of fun-loving, caring, educated and focused people. Join us at our meetings held upstairs

at The Roost, 10345-104 Street every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Buddy's Nite Club the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: Northernchaps@telusplanet.net

Northern Lights Square Dance Club

We are part of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. Everyone is invited to participate in this non-discriminatory, supportive, fun and stimulating square dance club. Singles and couples are welcome. No special clothing is needed. Comfortable shoes are recommended. We meet every Wednesday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. from September to June. Contact Denis at 780-922-4355, or e-mail: bflorapro@aol.com, for location of dances.

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, September to April, at Gateway Bowling Centre. For more information, please visit the WebPages at: <http://www.geocities.com/northerntitans/>

Open Door Club

Grant MacEwan College group. Anyone is welcome, including students, college employees, people from the area, perspective students, alumni or people who are interested in meeting other people. Our WebPages are at: <http://www.geocities.com/opendoorclub> or E-mail us at: opendoorclub@hotmail.com

Out at the Symphony

A unique social event for gay men. Meet other music lovers on Saturday evenings for concerts of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Masters mini-series 1. Enjoy special guest speakers, reserved cafe tables at intermission and post-show fun. Contact Paul at 401-2512 for more information.

Outdoors Club

Have you an interest in backcountry hiking/ camping? If so, the Outdoors Club is for you. Our purpose is to get people together for hiking/ camping trips, primarily within the Rockies and surrounding area. The activities of this group will be member focused and member initiated.

Individuals at all skill levels are welcome to participate. For information, please contact us at 780-430-0759 or e-mail:

gib_outdoors@hotmail.com or visit our WebPages at http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~bdick/glb_outdoors

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for

gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the second cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail:

outreach@ualberta.ca. They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A <http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach>

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

Yours Mine Ours and Us

Parenting support group for gbt parents, partners. Meets the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 - 9 p.m. Small donations for room costs. Issues of parenting, sharing skills, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at 415-5434 for more information. This is peer support, not a therapy group, nor a dating service. WebPages at: Yours Mine Ours Us http://www.geocities.com/ymou_1999/

Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the gay and lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail:

yuyedm@hotmail.com. Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth <http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/>

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

Womyn's Volleyball League

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association has initiated a womyn's only league for the first time this year. The season runs until May 28 and new members are welcome at any point. A drop-in fee of \$5 or a registration fee of \$35 is in effect. Monday nights 7 - 9 p.m. at Highlands Jr. High School (11509 - 62 St. - please use entrance off parking lot. For more information, please contact: Pam at 459-9370 p_mcewin@hotmail.com or Jenn at 424-5100 grnwolf@hotmail.com

Wominspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Wominspace <http://www.gaycanada.com/>

wominspace/

Regional Organizations

Freedom Fort McMurray

A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiring into membership, please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member, call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492,

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail:
gpgayorg@hotmail.com

Northern Rainbow Youth

A support group for High School students. Our email address is
nry13_18@hotmail.com. Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counselor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/~ptartan/outnorth.htm> E-mail:out_north99@hotmail.com

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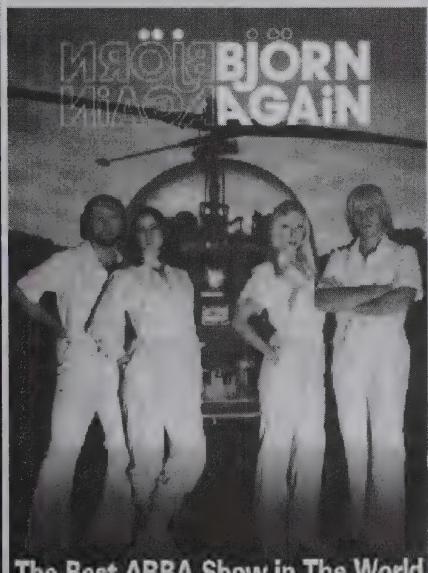
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Priests, Nuns and Cinema Celibates

By Steve Stewart

"Who can name the seven deadly sins?" asks Ben Stiller in *Keeping the Faith*, a popular comedy of a few years back. His character, a rabbi, continues, "People, it was a very popular film with Brad Pitt!" A romantic comedy about struggling with vows of celibacy, *Keeping the Faith* stars Edward Norton and Ben Stiller as a priest and a rabbi who both fall in love with the same woman (Jenna Elfman).

Norton's character is the chastity-challenged priest. He explains to Elfman that he's not gay "But even if I were, the rules are the same," he assures her. And he's just as willing to break them as any gay priest. In the you-will-never-preach-in-this-town-again department, no one knows more about sin than Hollywood. So it makes sense that Stiller's rabbi would use a movie to teach his congregation about it. When the holier-than-thou fall from grace you can be sure that someone with a camera will be there to capture it on film. They'll even be there when the funnier-than-thou fall.

Movies about wayward
22

priests and naughty nuns have been a studio staple since the beginning of time. Movie time, that is. But today, the images we're presented with on-screen are a lot less like the singing nun in *The Sound of Music* (1965) and a lot more like the killer nun in *Sister Mary Explains It All* (2001). In other words, a lot less fantasy and a lot more reality.

Which only makes sense. No one enjoys (or profits more from) the reality of a good scandal than Hollywood. Make it a sex scandal involving a priest or a nun and you've got a hit on your hands. At the moment, irreverent and divinely inspired comedies are the trend. In the first hit comedy of the year, *40 Days and 40 Nights*, Josh Hartnett turns to empty, meaningless one-night stands in an effort to get over a break-up with his girlfriend. When this didn't work he turns to his brother for help. A priest, his brother inspires him to give up sex for Lent. When word of Hartnett's chastity gets out, his co-workers start a betting pool to see how long he can last. To tempt him, two sexy young women at work French kiss and ask him to join them, but he keeps his vow. Unlike his brother, the Father, who he catches kissing a nun.

Just last year, in the over-the-top kidnap caper *Saving Silverman*, Jason Biggs falls in love with a young woman (Amanda Detmer), with the help of

his gay friend, played by Jack Black. The trouble is, she's about to take her vow of celibacy and become a nun. In the end, however, she chooses the pleasures of his flesh over a more holy matrimony. A year earlier, John Waters' sinfully comic *Cecil B. Demented* movies and celibacy are lampooned. Stephen Dorff plays an underground filmmaker who, along with his entourage, the Sprocket Holes, kidnaps a Hollywood film star (Melanie Griffith) and forces her to be in one of his movies.

The Sprocket Holes, underground cinema's avenging angels, have taken vows of celibacy for their art, but they aren't any more successful than your average priest. In the 1995 comedy *Jeffrey*, Steven Webber asks Nathan Lane, "Aren't you supposed to be straight and celibate?" Lane, playing a sassy gay priest replies, "Maybe you didn't hear me. I'm a Catholic priest. Historically that falls somewhere between chorus boy and florist!"

Webber plays a gay man so fearful of contracting AIDS that he chooses to be celibate. The trouble, and fun, begins when he meets the man of his dreams (Michael T. Weiss), who just happens to be HIV-positive. But celibacy hasn't always been a laughing matter.

In the 2000 action flick *Love and Action in Chicago*, Courtney B. Vance plays a hit man, as well as a deeply

devout Catholic who takes a vow of celibacy as penance for his profession. Lois Newton helps him renounce his vows. Even natural born killers, it seems, are no match for the sins of the flesh. The 1996 Indian drama *Fire* uses celibacy to spark a lesbian relationship. In the film, a young woman (Nandita Das) falls in love with her sister-in-law (Shabana Azmi). For 15 years the sister-in-law has endured a loveless marriage with a husband (Kulbushan Khabanda) who became celibate, following the teachings of a swami.

Who could have guessed that just two years into the new millennium it would be nearly impossible to listen to the radio, read a newspaper, turn on a television, browse the Internet or go to a movie without being exposed to men and women struggling to keep their vows of celibacy?

(Steve Stewart is the author of *OUT ON THE SCREEN: The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Guidebook* to more than 2,000 movies and videos from around the world. For more information about this book, or to receive his FREE monthly "Full-Frontal Newsletter to nudity in the movies" visit <http://www.companionpress.com>. *OUT ON THE SCREEN* is not sold in bookstores and is only available directly from the publisher at <http://www.companionpress.com>. Or write to: Steve Stewart, PO Box 2575, Laguna Hills, CA 92654.)

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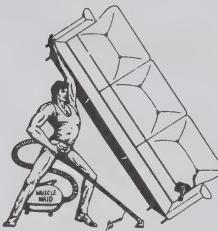
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EVM Reunion Concert

8:00 PM, Saturday, 1.June, 2002

Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building,

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Black Solstice

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Tickets \$15 (Non-Chaps members) \$10 (Chaps members) at:

- Buddy's Nite Club 11725B Jasper Ave (Saturday Nights 10pm - Midnight)
- Pride Video 10121-124 St
- B&D Emporium 9652-Jasper Ave
- Sugar Bowl & Illusion Computer Service 10724-124 St.
- Also Join us for the Meet-The-Meat at Buddy's on June 14th and the Survivor Brunch at the Sugar Bowl on June 16th



Black Solstice



Terrorism Is a Term that Requires Consistency

A group called Minnesotans Against Terrorism (MAT)—which includes Gov. Jesse Ventura, Sen. Paul Wellstone and other prominent political figures—has condemned the Minneapolis Star Tribune for what it calls a “double standard” on the use of the word “terrorism.” But in fact, neither the newspaper nor the organization applies the term “terrorism” in a consistent way—a problem that is widespread throughout U.S. media.

The organization’s grievance against the Star Tribune is that the paper says it avoids using the term “terrorist” in its reports on the Mideast conflict. As the paper’s assistant managing editor, Roger Buoen, explained in a comment to the paper’s ombudsman (2/3/02):

“Our practice is to stay away from characterizing the subjects of news articles

but instead describe their actions, background and identity as fully as possible, allowing readers to come to their own judgments about individuals and organizations.

“In the case of the term ‘terrorist,’ other words—‘gunman,’ ‘separatist’ and ‘rebel,’ for example—may be more precise and less likely to be viewed as judgmental. Because of that, we often prefer these more specific words. We also take extra care to avoid the term ‘terrorist’ in articles about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

permitted. For example, Al Qaeda is frequently referred to by the Star Tribune and other news organizations as a ‘terrorist network,’ in part because its members have been convicted of terrorist acts and because it has been identified by the United States and other countries as a terrorist organization.”

Here the paper is making distinctions that are not defensible. First, to limit “terrorism” to “nongovernmental groups” is an illogical restriction. Does a plane being blown up stop being terrorism if it turns out that some nation’s intelligence

a definition of terrorism, but because the U.S. government has used that label in public statements or in legal actions, is not allowing readers to make up their minds but letting the state make up their minds for them. Furthermore, the September 11 attacks are certainly an “emotional and heated” subject—probably more so than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict most of the Star Tribune’s readers. Since the reasons the paper cites for calling Al Qaeda “terrorist” also apply to the Palestinian organization Hamas, one can’t help but wonder if the Star Tribune’s different treatment of these groups has to do with the greater degree of outrage its readers would feel if the paper declined to use the term in Al Qaeda’s case.

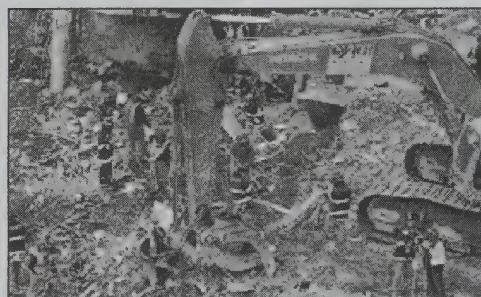
So MAT has a point when it charges the paper with a double standard. But the organization itself has a similar double standard when it comes to its definition of terrorism. “Calling the targeted killing of innocent civilians anything but terrorism is completely unconscionable,” says Marc Grossfield, the group’s co-founder, in a press release (4/2/02). But do they really mean it?

because of the emotional and heated nature of that dispute.”

This policy of avoiding the term “terrorism” in favour of more specific descriptions is a defensible policy—so long as it is applied consistently. But Buoen went on to acknowledge that the paper does make exceptions: “However, in some circumstances in which non-governmental groups carry out attacks on civilians, the term is

agency secretly ordered its destruction? To make such an arbitrary distinction over the use of a word with such powerful connotations certainly doesn’t sound like “allowing readers to come to their own judgments.” (The Star Tribune’s ombudsman noted that the Associated Press also reserves the word “terrorist” for non-governmental groups.)

Similarly, to decide that it is all right to label Al Qaeda as a “terrorist network,” not because its specific actions fit



MAT's definition precisely: Hiroshima was targeted precisely because the city, lacking significant military targets, had escaped previous bombing damage, so its destruction by a single bomb would send the starker possible message to Japan about the price the nation would pay if it refused to surrender. So why isn't that targeting of civilians, who died on a scale undreamed of by any suicide bomber, considered to be terrorism? "The use of weapons of mass destruction in WWII against an evil force who had engaged in genocide is not something that this organization is willing to judge," was MAT's official response.

So targeting civilians stops being terrorism when it's done to combat an "evil force." Of course, you would be hard pressed to find anyone who targeted civilians anywhere who did not consider the force they were fighting to be "evil." This is a definition of terrorism that hinges on whether or not one agrees with the reasons for killing civilians. In fact, the only consistent definition of terrorism is based on the deliberate killing of civilians to achieve political goals—not on whether the killers are backed by a state or not, and certainly not on the methods they choose to use to kill their victims. A consistent definition, however, is one that virtually no news organization would be willing to use.

They would have to refer to the "terrorist" bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to U.S. support for "terrorist" governments in Central America that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians, to the U.S.'s "terrorist" attacks on civilian infrastructure in Iraq and Yugoslavia. (The attacks on water treatment facilities in Iraq alone have certainly—*and* deliberately—killed more civilians than any Palestinian group; see *The Progressive*, 9/01.) And they would have to use the word "terrorism" to describe actions by both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Consider a May 1996 report from Human Rights Watch on Israel's tactics in Lebanon earlier that year:

"In significant areas in southern Lebanon whole populations—indeed anyone who failed to flee by a certain time—were targeted as if they were combatants.... The intention of the warnings that were broadcast and subsequent shelling is likely to have been to cause terror among the civilian population.... The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] also executed what appear to have been calculated direct attacks on purely civilian targets.... The IDF at times hindered and even attacked ambulances and vehicles of relief organizations, and carried out a number of attacks on persons attempting to flee the area."

If news organizations are prepared to describe such tactics as terrorism, then they should consistently apply the same term to non-

their own minds what they should be called.

(*FAIR ON THE AIR:* FAIR's founder Jeff Cohen is a regular panelist on the Fox News Channel's "Fox News Watch," which airs which airs Saturdays at 6:30 pm and Sundays at 11 pm (Eastern Standard Time). Check your local listings.



governmental groups that target civilians. If media are unwilling or unable to be consistent, then they should, indeed, avoid the use of the word "terrorism," instead describing specific activities and letting readers make up

FAIR produces *CounterSpin*, a weekly radio show heard on over 130 stations in the U.S. and Canada. To find the *CounterSpin* station nearest you, visit <http://www.fair.org/counterspin/stations.html>.

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I had a story,
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There drifting passed heaven,
In each happy moment I pray,
You and your feelings will be felt.

Feeling the sun as it reached out
and cried one day,
Didn't know what to say.

Drifted out beyond the Milky Way,
Found the universe to be a giant star,
Lost,
Drifting,
Lead astray.

Said how much I knew of love
and,
then spoke of the stars above,
Told of fallen feelings,
And how there is so much to give.

Left my friends,
With a feeling,
Surrender,
Did I ever tell you not to live?

Dreamed of times we spent together
Drifting starships from outside.

You and I are now together,
I'd believed,
I'd never leave.

We took our dream,
Of life forever,
So go inside my friend,
And you will find the you,
I believe you've never met.

Far beyond the imagination,
Passed the rivers of memories going by,
Is the world I love.

We speak of love,
Without words?
But I never spoke of love in a letter,
So I thought I'd write the words I feel,
Never passing the time we are together,
As brothers and sisters.

The times are the times we live,
I say we'll always give,
Count the stars in the sky above.

Left this world today,
And went beneath the sun.

You'll never guess what I found?

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Who You Are Makes A Difference!

By Helice Bridges

A teacher in New York decided to honour each of her seniors in high school by telling them the difference they each made. Using a process developed by Helice Bridges of Del Mar, California, she called each student to the front of the class, one at a time. First she told them how the student made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters, which read, "Who I Am Makes a Difference."

Afterwards the teacher decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a community. She gave each of the students three more ribbons and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgement ceremony. Then they were to follow up on the results, see who honoured whom and report back to the class in about a week.

One of the boys in the class went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honoured him for helping

him with his career planning. He gave him a blue ribbon and put it on his shirt. Then he gave him two extra ribbons, and said, "We're doing a class project on recognition, and we'd like you to go out, find somebody to honour, give them a blue ribbon, then give them the extra blue ribbon so they can acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Then please report back to me and tell me what happened."

Later that day the junior executive went in to see his boss, who had been noted, by the way, as being kind of a grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down and he told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon and would he give him permission to put it on him. His surprised boss said, "Well, sure."

The junior executive took the blue ribbon and placed it right on his boss's jacket above his heart. As he gave him the last extra ribbon, he said, "Would you do me a favour? Would you take this extra ribbon and pass it on by honouring somebody else? The young boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school and we want to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people."

That night the boss came

home to his 14-year-old son and sat him down. He said, "The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine. He thinks I'm a creative genius. Then he put this blue ribbon that says 'Who I Am Makes A Difference' on my jacket above my heart. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honour. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honour with this ribbon and I thought about you. I want to honour you."

"My Days are really hectic and when I come home I don't pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good enough grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess, but somehow tonight, I just wanted to sit here and well, just let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're a great kid and I love you!"

The startled boy started to sob and cry, and he couldn't stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, "I was planning on committing suicide tomorrow, Dad, because I didn't think you loved me. Now I don't need to."

Men Talking Together

Every Sunday evening at 7:00pm, Suite 45, 9912-106th St. this group fosters a safe, comfortable and healthy environment for gay/bisexual men to discuss relevant topics and issues to gay men's health as well as nurture friendships with other gay/bisexual men. All ages and backgrounds welcomed. Sponsored by the Gay Men's Outreach Crew

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You and Your Funny Bone...:)

Them Cowboys

Albert Einstein arrives at a party and introduces himself to the first person he sees and asks, "What is your IQ?" to which the man answers "241." "That is wonderful!" says Albert. "We will talk about the Grand Unification Theory and the mysteries of the universe. We will have much to discuss!"

Next Albert introduces himself to a woman and asks, "What is your IQ?" To which the lady answers, "144." "That is great!" responds Albert. "We can discuss politics and current affairs. We will have much to discuss!"

Albert goes to another person and asks, "What is your IQ?" to which the man answers, "51." Albert responds, "How 'bout them Cowboys?"

Tie

A traveler was stumbling through the desert, desperate for water, when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he walked toward the image, only to find a little old peddler sitting at a card table with a bunch of ties laid out for sale. The parched wanderer asked, "Please, I'm dying of thirst, can I have some water?" The man replied "I don't have any water, but why don't you buy a tie? Here's one that goes nicely with your clothes." The desperate man shouted, "I don't want a tie, you idiot, I need water!"

"OK, don't buy a tie. But to show you what a nice guy I am, I'll tell you that over that hill there, about 5 miles, is a nice restaurant. Walk that way, they'll give you all the water you want." The man thanked the peddler and walked away toward the hill and

eventually disappeared out of sight. Three hours later he returned. The man at the card table asked, "I told you, about 5 miles over that hill. Couldn't you find it?"

"I found it all right. They wouldn't let me in without a tie."

Draft Dodger

Two military police were chasing a fleeing draftee from the military base. The draftee ran into the courtyard of a convent where a nun was seated on a round bench beneath a tree quietly reading a book. He said to her, "Quick Sister, please hide me as I don't want to be drafted and the MP's are chasing me!" She lifted up her skirts and said, "Hide under my shirt." The two policemen came by and asked if she had seen anyone. She replied "No". After they left she told the boy to come out. All was OK-clear. He said, "You have a nice set of legs for a nun." She replied, "If you reach up a little farther, you'll find a set of balls! I'm not going to be drafted either!"

The Pin

One day Mr. Jones went to have a talk with the minister at his church. "Reverend," he said, "I have a problem; my wife keeps falling asleep during your sermons. It's very embarrassing. What should I do?" "I have an idea," said the minister. "Take this pin with you. I'll be able to tell when she's sleeping, and I will motion to you at specific times. When I motion, you give her a good poke in the leg with the pin."

In church the following Sunday, Mrs. Jones dozed off. Noticing this, the preacher put his plan to work. "...And who made the ultimate sacrifice for

you?" he said, nodding to Mr. Jones. "Jesus!" cried Mrs. Jones as her husband jabbed her in the leg with the pin. "Yes, you are right, Mrs. Jones," said the minister.

Soon, Mrs. Jones nodded off again. Again, the minister noticed her dozing. "Who is your redeemer?" he asked the congregation, motioning towards Mr. Jones. "God!" cried out Mrs. Jones as she was stuck again with the pin once again. "Right again, Mrs. Jones," said the minister, smiling and continuing his sermon. Before long, Mrs. Jones dozed off again. However, this time the minister didn't notice. As he picked up the tempo of his sermon, he made a few motions that Mr. Jones mistook as signals to wake his wife again. He was just sticking his wife with the pin again when the minister asked, "...And what did Eve say to Adam after she bore him his 99th son?"

Mrs. Jones shrieked, "You stick that damned thing in me one more time and I'll break it off and shove it up your ass!"

FTD Goofs Big Time

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card; it said, "Rest in Peace". The owner was angry and called the florist to complain. After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist said. "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, "Congratulations on your new location."

Ready, Aim ... Fire!

Three women are about to be executed for crimes. One's a brunette, one's a redhead, and one's a blonde.

Two guards bring the blonde forward, and the executioner asks if she has any last requests. She says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready...Aim..." Suddenly the blonde yells, "earthquake!!" Everyone is startled and looks around. She manages to escape. The angry guards then bring the redhead forward, and the executioner asks if she has any last requests. She says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready...Aim..."

The redhead then screams, "tornado!!" Yet again,

everyone is startled and looks around. She too escapes execution.

By this point, the blonde had figured out what the others did. The guards bring her forward, and the executioner asks if she has any last requests. She also says no, and the executioner shouts, Ready...Aim...

The blonde shouts, "fire!!"

Paperless

A young executive leaving the office one evening noticed his boss standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. "Listen", said the boss, "this is important and my assistant has already left the office. Can you make this thing

work?" "Certainly", said the young man, flattered that the boss had asked him for help. The young executive turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button. "Thank you," said the boss, unaware that his paper had disappeared into the paper shredder. "I need two copies of that."

Oops!

A woman named Sue went into a store to buy her husband, Ted, a pet for his birthday. After looking around, she found that all the pets were very expensive. She told the clerk she wanted to buy a pet, but she didn't want to spend a fortune. "Well," said the clerk, "I have a very large bullfrog for \$50." "That's a lot for a frog!" Sue

replied. "This one is special," the clerk said. "It gives blowjobs." Since Sue did not relish the act, she thought it might be a great idea, and bought the frog. When she explained froggie's ability to Ted, he was extremely skeptical, but, since a man has never turned down a blowjob, he said he'd give it a try. So, Sue went to bed happy, knowing she'd never need to perform a less than riveting act again.

In the middle of the night, she was awakened by the noise of pots and pans flying everywhere, making hellacious banging and crashing sounds. She ran downstairs to the kitchen, only to find her husband Ted and the frog reading cookbooks. "What are you two doing at this hour?" she asked. Ted replied, "If I can teach this frog to cook, your ass is outta here!"

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A Fabulous Parade

In the spring of every year, a young gay man's thoughts turn invariably to the weeklong "event" we call our pride festival. Last year and the year before, I found myself very distressed by what I saw around me in the weeks and months leading up to what I believed to be a celebration of queer culture. I saw dumb faggy politics spewing their black venom across the rainbow decorations, and it left me feeling, well, not proud.

This year, it's different. Or I'm different. Whatever. This year, it's not the same way. For a while, it almost looked like it would be, but maybe, just maybe, everyone's realized that Edmonton's Pride Festival is not what it should be. For a city of this size, for a community this vibrant, our city just doesn't measure up. Last year was a huge leap forward. I don't know of anyone who saw the parade and the crowd watching the parade without feeling a little happy about being gay in Edmonton. This year, knock on wood, will be better.

Still, I am not so fargone in my own delusions as to think that everything is a whisker on kittens. Even if there's only been the faintest whiff of scandal, I'm sure that great multi-headed monster of POLITICS will rise up and roar as we get farther along this little yellow brick road we call life. Maybe it won't be about capitalist competition. Maybe it won't be about decades of personal grudges exploding in a tirade of slander and gossip. Still, I'm positive that as soon as we start stretching our heads to see the wonder, which could be Edmonton Pride, some Bitter Betty will slam a guillotine blade down on our necks.

When you think of Pride Week, what do you think of? A fabulous parade, for sure. Hundreds of people

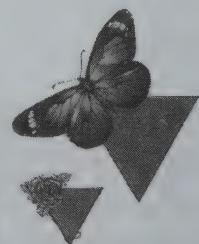
participating, both in the parade and watching it. Huge colorful floats, bedazzled by sparkling decorations. Queens in their most colorful. Half-naked boys glistening in the sun. Homos and lesbians and bisexuals, oh my! Last year's parade was pretty damn fabulous, so strap on your ruby slippers and come out this year to make it even better.

Of course, there's more to Pride Week than the parade. There's the big dance. This year, they're shifting it from the Citadel to the BusBarns, but it sounds like they're setting it up so that everyone can party everywhere that night, what with busses doing the Edmonton gay circuit. Now that's a party. Remember the Pride episode of Queer as Folk, with seemingly open-door policy on Liberty Avenue and everyone just stumbling about, cruising, cocktailing, and cavorting in the street? How amazing would that be, thousands of homos all shaking their groove thangs in the hot summer air.

All the events themselves are super-fun party stuff. It's the body count we need, the people out at them. We've got leather events and drag events and dances and fundraisers and parties and concerts, and probably some other artsy stuff I don't know about yet. Something for everyone, something to celebrate every aspect of Edmonton's queer

diversity. For that one week a year, it's nice to think that that diversity is responsible for bringing us together as a community rather than keeping us in our own corners. Maybe this year will be that year. We'll see.

You know what? (You know what?) This wasn't nearly neurotic enough to be a column. I need a quick-fix of sheer, unrelated bitterness... against... oh! I know. I've gotten a few emails asking me about the repetitive typo in this column "shappy poser". That's not a typo, it's slang lingo that only about a half dozen people use. Poser is a combination of poser and loser; they're the same word if you change that one letter. It nicely sums up my feelings about the S&M I'm-so-pretty don't-talk-to-me, you're-blocking-my-spotlight crowd. Shappy, on the other hand, is a contraction of shiny-happy, a REM tribute to the pretty plastic faces who don't dare let their personality out because that causes wrinkles. There. I feel a bit better now, and next time I go off against shappy posers, you'll know exactly what I mean.





Pay Attention to Prevention! It works...

Sustained, comprehensive prevention efforts begun in the 1980s have had a substantial impact on slowing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our country. While it is difficult to measure prevention - or how many thousands of infections did not occur as a

result of efforts to date - we know the epidemic was growing at rate of over 80% each year in the mid-1980s and has now stabilized. While the occurrence of approximately 40,000 new infections annually is deeply troubling, we have made tremendous progress. We also have more scientific evidence than ever before on which prevention programs are most effective. There is no question that prevention works and remains the best and most cost-effective approach for bringing the HIV/AIDS epidemic under control and saving lives.

HIV prevention programs have

been proven effective.

Many studies indicate that prevention programs can contribute to changes in personal behaviour that reduce risks of infection, and these changes are sustained over time. A 1997 scientific consensus conference sponsored by the National Institutes of Health that reviewed existing data on the effectiveness of HIV behavioural interventions concluded that "behavioural interventions to reduce risk for HIV/AIDS are effective and should be disseminated widely."

Comprehensive school-

based HIV and sex education programs have been shown to delay the initiation of sexual intercourse, reduce the frequency of intercourse, reduce the number of sex partners, or increase the use of condoms or other contraceptives.

Efforts to reduce risks of injection drug users through policy changes also have been evaluated and found to be very effective. For example, both New York and Connecticut reported significant reductions in the sharing of drug injection equipment

Continued on page 37

GLAAD Offers Resources For Catholic Church Sex-Abuse

In response to increasing (and, in some cases, increasingly problematic) media coverage of the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) today published "Resources for Covering the Catholic Church Sex-Abuse Crisis," a comprehensive online reference companion to its continuing work on the issue.

The media reference can be accessed at <http://www.glaad.org/org/relations/reference/index.html>.

"Resources for Covering the Catholic Church Sex-Abuse Crisis" includes suggestions for fair, accurate and inclusive reporting; a list of contact information for media spokespersons and resources; and an archive of recent news

and opinion coverage of the story — good, problematic and defamatory. The coverage archive will be updated on a regular basis; and future articles, columns and transcripts will include media contact information so readers can voice their opinions to the producing outlet in a timely manner.

"For the last three months, revelations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests have become front-page news across the country," says GLAAD News Media Director Cathy Renna in her introductory letter to the media reference. "Unfortunately — yet predictably — some media coverage of the sex abuse scandal has become increasingly sensationalistic. And as some Catholic Church officials have attempted to deflect attention from their own culpability in the growing scandal by scapegoating gay priests, a number of conservative commentators have opportunistically exploited the situation in an effort to link adult homosexuality — and gay people in general — with child sexual abuse.

"Given the Catholic Church's deeply conflicted doctrine on homosexuality, the undeniable existence of gay priests has long been fodder for speculation and sensationalistic rumours," Renna says. "It is equally important to acknowledge

that men, women, teenagers and young children have been the victims of intolerable sexual abuse by priests they trusted. And just as there is no excuse for any adult's sexual abuse of children (or a priest's sexual abuse of any parishioner), neither is it acceptable to claim that such abuse is in any way reflective of gay life, gay identity or the majority of gay priests.

"At GLAAD, we have been monitoring media coverage of this story since the beginning of the year, and we have been reaching out appropriately to journalists, editors and producers covering this story to

promote fair and accurate reporting," Renna says. "We also know that gay Catholics and priests, with few exceptions, are devout people of faith whose voices have thus far been largely missing from this story."

Our behind-the-scenes work with groups like Dignity/USA has endeavoured to increase visibility for gay and lesbian people of faith at a time when the very legitimacy of their identity — both as gays and lesbians and as Catholics — is being called into question. We hope that these resources will assist media outlets in providing quality coverage of this highly troubling situation."

Icebreaker 2002!!

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first meeting on Saturday
May 25 at
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you

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Prevention! It works...

Continued from page 35

after implementation of programs and policies that increased access to sterile injection equipment. Perinatal prevention programs that identify and treat pregnant women who are HIV infected have shown dramatic success in reducing HIV transmission to their babies. Screening the blood supply for HIV and heat-treating blood products for the treatment of hemophilia have nearly eliminated HIV transmission through these early transmission routes. Postexposure prophylaxis for health care workers has shown

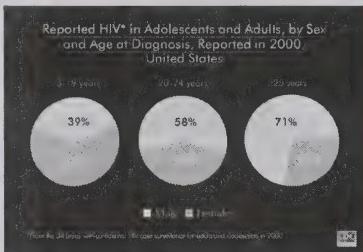
some success in reducing HIV transmission rates among those with occupational exposure to HIV-infected blood.

We must maintain a focus on behavioural strategies. Even a vaccine doesn't stop a disease unless people use it - and in the case of HIV, a vaccine is unlikely to confer 100% lifelong immunity. Because no medical advance can succeed on its own, people must adapt their behaviours to work in tandem with it. To do this, they need several things:

Assistance in developing skills to use new medical treatments. HAART, for example, involves complex treatment regimens and may require the development of compliance-related skills. For example, people may need to learn how to deal with

developing drug resistance, or how to cope with complicated schedules.

Support and encouragement from family, friends, care providers, and the community at large will help people make and sustain behavioural changes in their lives. Today, more than ever, we must recognize that medical advances do not negate the need for preventing disease - in fact, the availability of newer and better treatments often increases the need for prevention. How well we continue our work to develop integrated approaches to prevention and treatment may well define the future course of the HIV pandemic.



side effects, what drug interactions might occur, how to lessen the risk of



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Gay Pride - It's Meaning and Its Goals

Many identify the Stonewall Riots as the beginning of community organization in North America. In 1969, tired of police harassment, the patrons of the Stonewall bar in New York City, led by a handful of gays (some in drag), rose up in protest at the arrests and humiliation. Political activity was sparked by the event, and the first organized Pride march was planned the year following by the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee to remember the Stonewall riots.

In the early 1970s, not everyone in the gay and lesbian communities wanted to remember Stonewall. For some, the violence had been an embarrassment. Nor was it obvious that a march would necessarily be the best way to observe whatever Stonewall represented.

From that first march in 1970, the visibility of the gay and lesbian movement has increased dramatically. Many milestones in the history of acceptance have occurred in and around Pride marches: the Anita Bryant protest, AIDS awareness, and

demonstrations for same-sex relationship recognition. In Canada, protests around police raids on gay bathhouses in the 1980s are considered by many to mark the Canadian equivalent of Stonewall.

Has Pride actually changed its focus since the early days after Stonewall? Debates continue about whether Pride should be political or celebratory, while increasing corporate sponsorship and the growing size of the festivals have brought other changes.

Nonetheless, Pride events remain one of the few times of the year when the community comes together in all its diversity, a time when all types, flavours, and styles of gay men and lesbian people along with straight friends and family, rub elbows with each other. In the midst of this challenge of large-scale diversity, Pride Committees across the country work on the daunting task of putting on an event that will be relevant to all. One which will celebrate and strengthen the pride and health of gay men and lesbian people, their families and the community as a whole. The aims of Pride celebrations include:

To develop personal pride in gay men and lesbians;

To enhance pride and involvement in our communities;

To foster a greater awareness and acceptance of our diversity;

To strengthen the ability to deal with different health issues that are facing our community, i.e. HIV/AIDS,

breast cancer etc.

To increase public awareness in the wider community.

Evolution of the Rainbow Flag

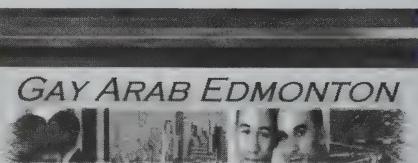


Colour has long played an important role in our communities' history and expression of pride. In Victorian England, for example, the colour green was associated with homosexuality. The colour purple (or, more accurately,

lavender) became popularized for the lesbian and gay communities with "Purple Power". And, of course there are the pink and black triangles. The pink triangle was first used by Hitler to identify gay males in Nazi concentration camps, and the black triangle was similarly used to identify lesbians and others deemed "asocial". Our communities reclaimed the pink and black triangle symbols in the early 1980s to signify our strength of spirit and willingness to survive oppression.

As we gain acceptance of our rights, the symbols of oppression are gradually being replaced by the symbols of celebration. By far the most colourful of our symbols is the Rainbow flag, and its

Continued on page 44



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It's Meaning

Continued from page 40

rainbow of colours - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, which represent the diversity of our communities.

The first rainbow flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, in response to calls by activists for a symbol for the community. Baker used the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, and designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. These colours were intended to represent respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit. Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself.

When Baker approached a company to mass-produce the flags, he found out that "hot pink" was not commercially available. The flag was then reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's lesbian and gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wanting to demonstrate the gay community's strength and gays and lesbians as having a single, monolithic "agenda", the reality is that ours is an extraordinarily diverse community. Across all races and cultural backgrounds, across all languages, with or without disabilities, across all religions, our communities continue to flourish. Sometimes, our own communities are divided between gay and lesbian, between "gay" and "queer", between those in big cities and those in the suburbs and small towns, between "assimilationists" and those who want to live apart from the mainstream. While diversity poses its challenges, it is also enriching. There are as many opinions as there are people. There is no gay or lesbian "lifestyle"; there are only gay or lesbian people.

Millions of us, each one unique. This is our strength.

So, why should we bother?

Because the government will not allow us to marry the person of our choice;

Because people are still denied jobs, promotions or denied accommodation because of their sexual orientation;

Because gay teenagers are disproportionately at risk of suicide;

Because Canadians are still beaten or murdered for being lesbian or gay;

Because we are still made to feel uncomfortable when holding the hand of a partner while walking down the street;

Because our materials are still censored by the government and banned from schools;

Because our relationships remain unrecognized in hundreds of provincial and territorial laws.

By celebrating Pride together, we remember our past, affirm our future, and provide an important visibility that advances our struggle for equality.

Request for Nominations for 2002 Edmonton Pride Awards

The Edmonton Pride Awards have been established to recognize specific individual or group contributions to the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender community. Awards are presented annually in the following categories:

The Maureen Irwin Award: to an individual lesbian woman for long-term contribution to the community at large;

The Michael Phair Award: to an individual gay man for long-term contribution to the community at large;

The Sheryl McInnis Award: to an individual who, through scholarship, teaching, and/or academic pursuit has enriched the community;

The Larry Sand Award: to a business that has solidly supported our community;

Pride Certificates: to recognize individuals, groups, or particular events.

To nominate a person or group, please provide a short bio of the nominee, the reasons you think they deserve the award, and any pertinent contact information.

For more information e-mail Roz at rosten@shaw.ca or Fred at fdicker@compusmart.ab.ca

Send nominations to:

The Gay & Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton
P.O. Box 1852
Main P.O.
Edmonton T5J 2P2

Or drop off at GLCCE
#45-9912-99 Street

Deadline for Nominations: May 25, 2002

Damanhour Five Not Guilty!

An Egyptian appeals court in Damanhour, the capital of Al-Beheira province, found the "Damanhour Five" not guilty of all charges. The five men had been convicted March 11 of consensual homosexual conduct, and had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment and three years' probation.

"We are gratified that the Egyptian government is beginning to recognize its human rights obligations," stated Scott Long, Program Director at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (I G L H R C) . "Unfortunately an unknown number of innocent people remain in prison because of their suspected homosexuality. We must continue the pressure until they are all released."

The Damanhour trials

come after a year in which brutal arrests, allegations of torture, and hard labour sentences and sensationalized trials of suspected homosexuals have become a regular occurrence in Egypt.

The Damanhour defendants themselves have not been released yet. The five have been in jail since their arrest on January 15, 2002. They were convicted March 11 of the "habitual practice of debauchery" [al-fujur] under Article 9(c) of Law 10/1961—a provision commonly used in Egypt

to penalize consensual homosexual behaviour. The same law was used to sentence 23 men to one to five years of hard labour on November 14 of last year, in the notorious Queen Boat case.

All five men had confessed to homosexual acts under what they later claimed was torture, including beatings and electric shocks. The prosecutor alleged that they had been found "used"—passive partners in homosexual sex—by a medical examination.



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romance

Box 1739: This is David, I like to suck cock, get fucked up to ass, lick nipples and balls. I like to call guys sk, daddy, master and I want to serve you. I'm 45, good-looking, looking for a 32 year old.

Box 1936: I'm Scott, 38, 6'5", 230lb, short brown hair, blue eyes, clean-shaven, long hair on my chest. I'm looking for a nice guy to get to know, be friends with and eventually become a companion on a permanent basis. I'm open-minded and easy-going and seek the same.

friendship & hanging out

Box 1433: I'm 33, live in central Edmonton, looking for other guys 30-40 to get together and have some fun, maybe we'll lead to something else. I like to give in good shape, look after yourself and are not into head games, get back.

Box 1630: I'm 18, black hair and brown eyes, 5'7", I'm looking to find a friend, I don't have many friends that are out so it's pretty hard to talk to any of my straight friends.

Box 1759: 6'2" broad shoulder bear, 39, looking for a bear or gay guy, 6'7" cool, love to suck cock and get fucked. My dick is really hard.

Box 1811: Gay white male, looking for other guy or bi males to get together. Leave your details in my box.

Box 2894: I'm 26, 5'10", 155lb, brown hair and green eyes, nice-sized cock, 8", thick, big head, shaved balls. I'm 23, I like to suck cock, especially guys with nice hairy balls and smooth as well. Anyone 18-35.

phone buddies

Box 2278: I could use a good phone buddy or two to crack off with from time to time. It seems like I am always horny and have a very high sex drive. I'm a big guy, stocky build, bearded face, hairy, hung with large, productive balls that need to be milked on a regular basis.

transsexual & transgender relationships

Box 1802: I'm Darrel, 39, brown hair and eyes, mustache and goatee. I'm looking for a transvestite to get together with now and then.

one night stands

Box 1153: Maitred bi male, 6', almost hairless body. I'm a bottom, very submissive, I would really like someone to be top and let me give them a nice blow job, no strings attached. I love sucking someone off.

Box 1245: I'm 6', 180lb, short brown hair and green eyes, nice-sized cock, 8", thick, big head, shaved balls. I'm 23, I like to suck cock, especially guys with nice hairy balls and smooth as well. Anyone 18-35.

Box 1592: I'm 32, 5'9", 160lb, slim, good-looking guy, 8", uncut. Looking for a slim, smooth, young guy, 20-30 who wants to get together for occasional good times, I can entertain.

Box 1609: I'm now to this guy thing. I'm looking for a nice attractive male to do all the nasty things I want someone's big cock in my mouth and ass and juicy cum rubbed over me. I want a nice, hot-looking guy, 34-50.

Box 1659: I have blonde hair, blue eyes, I'm just lying back here with a massive load on my big hairy balls and nice ass. Anyone want to get together?

Box 1677: I'm Tyler, very homo, 18, bisexual, fat back and half white, 8" cut cock, I'm looking to play with other big cocks, probably under 35, or over if you're really good-looking.

Box 1694: I'm Tony, great body, great dick. I want to connect and fuck, have a good time. Always horny and hungry.

Box 1735: I'm 35, bi, 5'10", 175lb, would love to hook up and meet someone for casual encounters. I'm very open-minded and willing to try almost anything at all. I come into the city about twice a month.

Box 1859: Two guys here, the first is 6', 200lb, 8" thick, cut, big mushroom head, moderately hairy chest, blonde and blue eyes. The second one is 5'7" light brown hair, smooth chest, shaved ass, cock and balls, 7" thick and cool. We're looking for other guys for casual encounters.

Box 1917: Professional gay male, fit and active, slim and work out. I'm in the gym. I'm getting a little itch and am wondering if you want to help me scratch it.

Box 1933: I'm 29, 5'9", 150lb, brown hair and blue eyes. Looking to hook up in a regular basis with guys. Preferably under 30, the younger the better and anything goes.

Box 1962: I'm 5'8", 165lb, brown hair and mustache and goatee. Looking for a mature gay man, I've got to naked and be controlled, spanked and very oral. If you are a nice guy and a daddy type, 40-50, I'd love to hear from you.

Box 2263: I'm 5'9", 170lb, 5" smooth cock. Looking for some hot suck and fuck action with a guy with a 8" cock. Must be willing to enter.

Box 1760: I'm a young-looking 40 year old guy, 6' shoulder length blonde hair, pretty blue eyes, golden brown hair all over my chest and belly and 7" rock hard cock. I live up in Fort St. John but I travel to Edmonton on a fairly regular basis so I'm interested in hearing from anybody up the way or in between here and Edmonton. I'm very clean, concerned with personal hygiene, hot and horny all the time. I'm

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suck and be sucked and fucked. Shaved cock, balls, nice tight ass. Love a lot of stuff, especially as long as people are enjoying it. I poppers and a bunch of other things. Can entertain, attracted to bigger guys but I'd like to hear from just about anyone, I'm basically a bottom but I am versatile, very oral, love sucking cock and getting fucked. I like to have fun, have sex, laugh, I'm very faithful and loyal.

first-timers & bi guys

Box 1558: Ft guy, huge cock, looking to fuck and get fucked hardcore. I like poppers, let's play.

Box 1691: This is Tony, want to get together and have a group thing, going major and suck and fuck and try some public stuff too. I'm horny and need to have some guys together.

Box 1788: Clean-cut white male, bi-curious, slim, shaved, moderately hairy, well-endowed and professionally employed. I'm looking for male-male couples who are clean and uninfected. I like it if she is slim that would be a bonus. I'm bi-curious and would love to be fucked by both partners. I hope to be played with for long periods of time as long as it is safe and done. You must take pride in your appearance and be very clean.

Box 1603: The name's Bob. I'm in the central Alberta area looking for somebody that likes to travel. I'm 35, 5'4", good shape, just looking for a mate, the same - someone attractive, nice cock, shaved, clean. This is for casual encounters.

Box 1759: My name's Dave. I'm a single white male, 44, brown hair and eyes. 195lb. Would like to get together with bi-curious or gay guys. I like anal and sex, sucking cock, getting my cock sucked and I am into a variety of things.

total tops

Box 1692: This is Tony. I'm a total top and want to fuck. Let's have some fun. I have a big fat cock and balls.

submissive bottom

Box 1303: I'm a little older, but am looking for a well-hung stud, 7" - and thick. I'm strictly bi-curious and like to be bottomed. I like cock, licking ass, eating pussy, anything like that. Love to have toys used on me. Mind you, I like to dress for sex, live bondage, being gagged.

Box 1903: This is Gary, 50, 200, 5'8", very submissive male, would like to meet other males or couples.

Box 2518: I am an inexperienced submissive bottom. Totaly obedient, wanting to learn and be trained by an older experienced dominant top in a safe, sane and consensual manner.

bears & big men

Box 1607: I'm a young-looking 40 year old guy, 6' shoulder length blonde hair, pretty blue eyes, golden brown hair all over my chest and belly and 7" rock hard cock. I live up in Fort St. John but I travel to Edmonton on a fairly regular basis so I'm interested in hearing from anybody up the way or in between here and Edmonton. I'm very clean, concerned with personal hygiene, hot and horny all the time. I'm

Box 1996: Hey ladies, My name is Vince. I'm a 20 year old single white bi male living in the Edmonton area. I'm 5'8" with a pretty slim to skinny build, 135lb, dark hair, green eyes, 7"-8" uncut cock, nice shaved balls. What I'm looking for are she-males or transvestites who would like to get together for a little bit of fun. I'd have a chance to get together with a transvestite before and I really enjoyed it and I'd like to do it again. Looking forward to entertaining or to travel.

Box 1805: ...interested?

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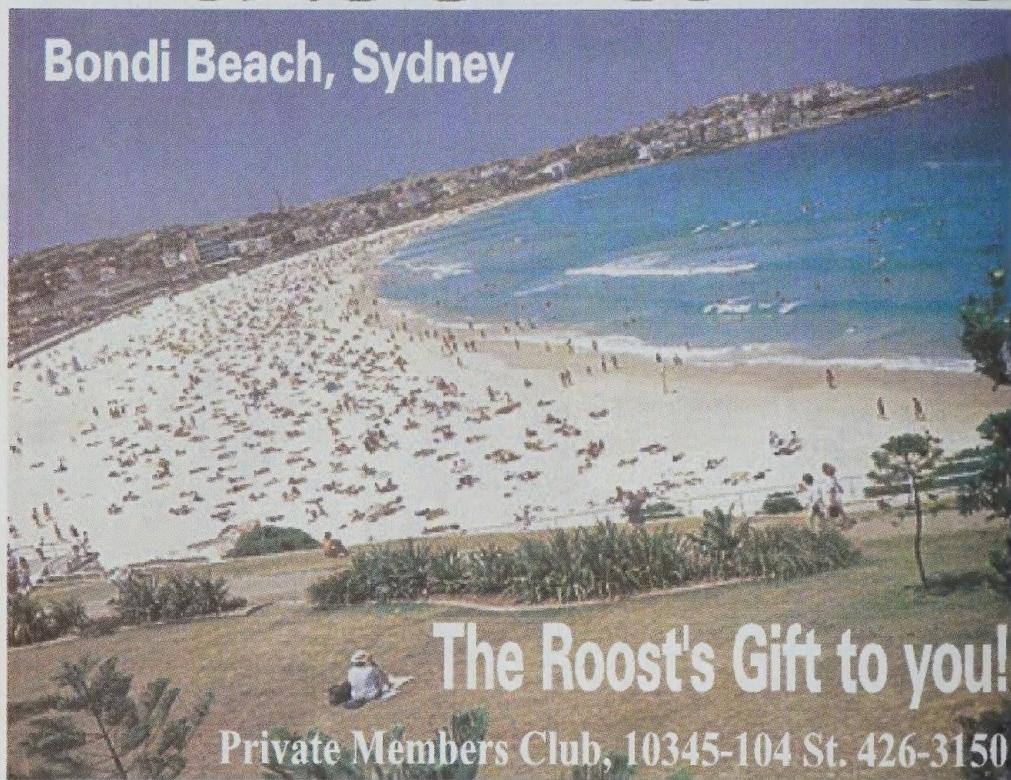
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